



Public Notice

**BUFFALO DISTRICT
MIDWEST INTERIM
REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT**

**Published: NOVEMBER 25, 2008
Expires: DECEMBER 24, 2008**

**U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers
Buffalo District CELRB-TD-R**

**PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCING PUBLICATION AND ONE YEAR TRIAL OF THE
MIDWEST INTERIM REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT TO
THE 1987 WETLAND DELINEATION MANUAL**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, announces the publication and one year trial implementation period of the Midwest Interim Regional Supplement (Supplement) to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (1987 Manual). This document is one of a series of ten different Regional Supplements to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (hereafter to be called the Corps Manual), and is part of a nationwide effort to address various regional wetland characteristics and improve the accuracy and efficiency of wetland-delineation procedures.

This Supplement was developed by wetland delineation experts from State and Federal agencies and academia with experience within the Midwest region. It has been peer reviewed by an independent panel of Midwest scientists and practitioners and made available for a 90-day public comment period. This interim document will be tested for one year prior to finalization; the one year period will be effective 30 days from the date of this public notice. The Supplement will be field tested by interagency teams of state and Federal scientists to assess its clarity and ease of use, and to determine whether its use will result in any spatial changes in wetland delineation for Clean Water Act purposes. Comments on this Supplement should be submitted to **Jennifer McCarthy (CECW-CO), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street, NW, Washington DC 20314-1000** or by email to **1987Manual@usace.army.mil**.

The 1987 Manual, this Supplement, including data forms and field evaluation questionnaire, as well as the independent peer review report and response document, the environmental assessment/FONSI prepared under NEPA, and copies of public comments are available on the Regulatory Homepage Website at:

http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/reg_supp.htm

The following guidance documents are superseded by this Supplement, and are hereby rescinded by this public notice:

"Implementation of the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual," memorandum from John P. Elmore dated 27 August 1991.

"Questions & Answers on the 1987 Manual," memorandum from John F. Studt dated 7 October

1991.

"Clarification and Interpretation of the 1987 Manual," memorandum from Major General Arthur E. Williams dated 6 March 1992.

"Revisions to National Plant Lists," memorandum from Michael L. Davis dated 17 January 1996.

"NRCS Field Indicators of Hydric Soils," memorandum from John F. Studt dated 21 March 1997.

Region and subregion boundaries are depicted in these Regional Supplements as sharp lines. However, climatic conditions and the physical and biological characteristics of landscapes do not change abruptly at the boundaries. In reality, regions and subregions often grade into one another in broad transition zones that may be tens or hundreds of miles wide. The lists of wetland indicators presented in these Regional Supplements may differ between adjoining regions or sub regions. In transitional areas, investigators must use experience and good judgment to select the supplement and indicators that are appropriate to the site based on its physical and biological characteristics. Wetland boundaries are not likely to differ between two supplements in transitional areas, but one supplement may provide more detailed treatment of certain problem situations encountered on the site. If in doubt about which supplement to use in a transitional area, apply both supplements and compare the results. For additional guidance, contact the Buffalo District Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Office. Contact information for the Buffalo District Regulatory Office is:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
Attention: CELRB-TD-R
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199
Phone: 716-879-4330
FAX: 716-879-4310
<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/regulatory/>

Effective 30 days from the date of this public notice, the Supplement data forms and indicators must be used for any data collection for wetland delineations. Field data collected for wetland delineations using the 1987 Manual prior to the effective date of this notice, but not yet submitted to the Buffalo District for review and formal approval, will be grandfathered. Documentation must be submitted to the Buffalo District which clearly shows the field data was collected prior to 30 days from the date of this notice in order to qualify for this grandfather provision. Once this documentation and the field data have been reviewed and approved by the Buffalo District, a written determination will be issued.

While we are confident the Supplement will improve the accuracy of wetland delineation in the Midwest, anyone performing a wetland delineation during this interim period using the Supplement who believes it has resulted in a significantly different boundary line than the 1987 Manual may also complete the delineation using the 1987 Manual and submit both delineations. Enough points to adequately describe the representative plant communities, soils, and hydrology of the site(s) and to

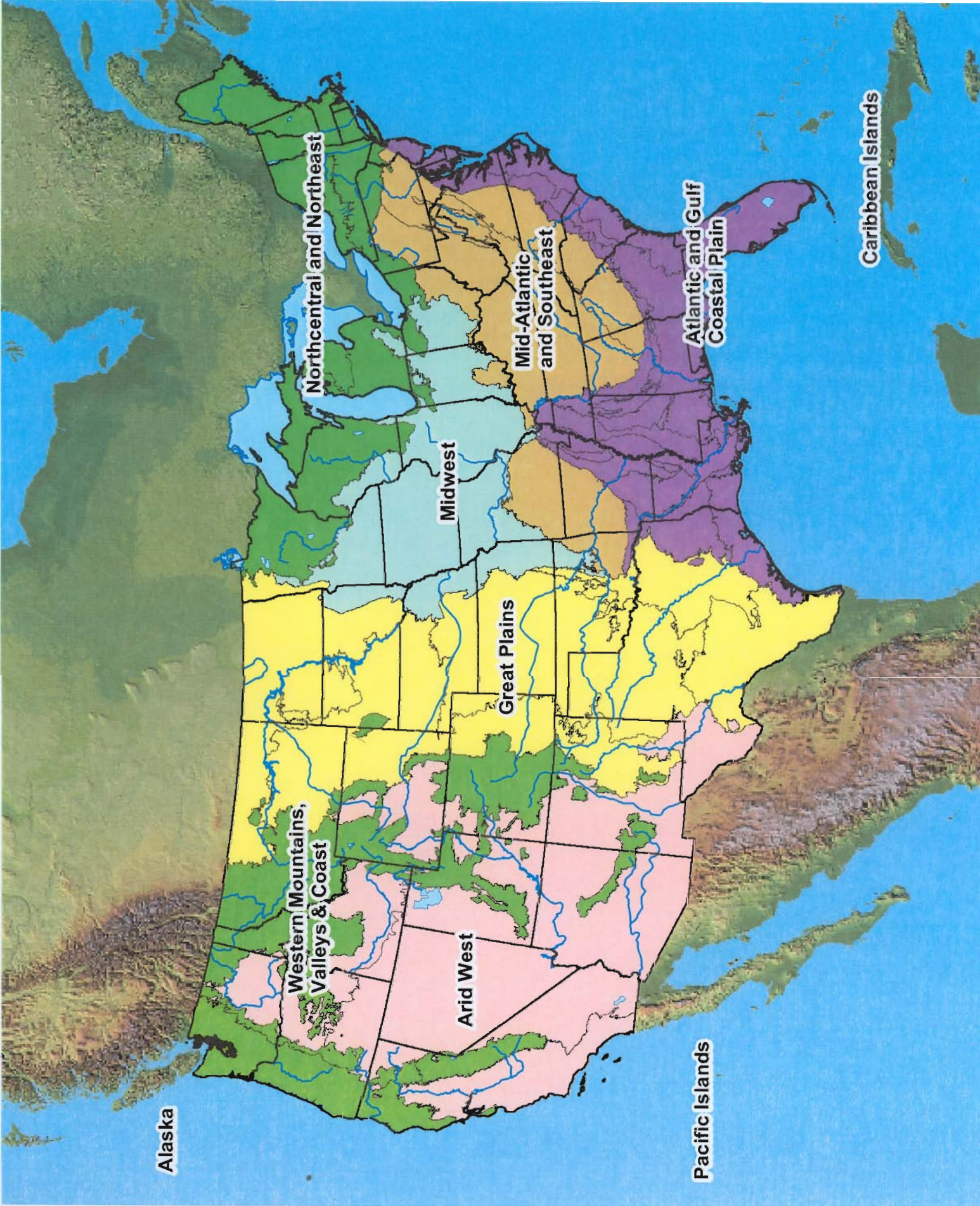
clearly document the difference in boundaries between the two methods must be included. Data recorded on both the existing 1992 data forms and the new Supplement data forms, maps indicating the location of the field site and data collection points (upland and wetland), and a completed field evaluation questionnaire for each delineation must be submitted as part of the jurisdictional determination request to the Buffalo District Office. The District will make the final determination based on an analysis of all the submitted information. This information will also be used in evaluation and potential modification of the Supplement.

Diane C. Kozlowski
Acting Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.



Figure 1. Approximate boundaries of the Midwest Region. This supplement is applicable throughout the highlighted area (see text for details).



Alaska

Western Mountains,
Valleys & Coast

Arid West

Great Plains

Midwest

Northcentral and Northeast

Mid-Atlantic
and Southeast

Atlantic and Gulf
Coastal Plain

Pacific Islands

Caribbean Islands